



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH NOTES

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	TITLE: 2007 Migratory Game Bird Banding	

Abstract: During 2007, 3,581 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis maxima*), 1,294 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 1,298 mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*) were banded in Indiana. The minimum banding goal for Canada geese was exceeded, as was the wood duck goal (for the first time). Banding efforts should continue as necessary tools in migratory game bird management. Canada goose banding effort should be expanded to include as many relocated urban geese as is possible.

History

The banding program carried out by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife (IDFW) is a cooperative effort between IDFW, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the US Geological Survey (USGS) through the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL). The IDFW's goals have historically been to band 2,000 locally-breeding Canada geese (*Branta canadensis maxima*) each year, as well as 1,285 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and 1,200 mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*).

Methods

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife (IDFW) biologists captured and banded locally-breeding migratory game birds using funnel traps (geese) and baited traps (wood ducks and mourning doves). Canada geese were banded during their flightless period, which occurs during the last two weeks of June. Wood ducks and doves were banded during July and August. Wood duck banding occurred on six participating FWAs: Hovey Lake, Jasper-Pulaski, LaSalle, Kankakee, Pigeon River, and Willow Slough. In addition, wood ducks were banded at Monroe and Mississinewa reservoirs. Properties were not given specific quotas, but bands were distributed based on past banding performance.

Canada geese that were relocated from urban areas to FWAs were also banded with plastic tarsal bands, to the extent possible. Orange bands were placed on adult birds, while white bands were placed on juvenile birds. These bands will help determine rates at which relocated urban birds return to urban areas.

Indiana no longer uses plastic neck collars on geese. Canada discontinued using collars on interior Canada geese after 2002, due to concerns that collars reduce survival. Collar data are only useful if the proportion of collars from different areas is known. This data quality issue, combined with survival concerns, leaves no reason for Indiana to continue an expensive collaring operation.

Results

A total of 3,581 Canada geese were banded on state and private properties in Indiana (Table 1). For all banded geese, the juvenile to adult age ratio was 0.68:1 and the male to female ratio was 1:1. A total of 553 relocated Canada geese were banded with colored plastic tarsal bands.

Staff at six Indiana FWAs and two reservoirs banded 1,294 wood ducks (Table 2). This was the most wood ducks banded in a single season (exceeding the previous record of 1,028, set last year). A large majority was juvenile birds (with a juvenile to adult age ratio of 4.2:1).

Eighteen IDFW properties and district wildlife biologists banded 1,298 mourning doves (Table 3).

Discussion

The banding goal for Canada geese was exceeded in 2007. In future years, we will be expanding our banding goals to include more relocated geese. These birds are moved from urban areas to FWAs under authority of Indiana's Special Canada Goose Permit, issued by USFWS. Banding these geese will allow us to estimate rates at which these birds return to urban areas. Overall, IDFW will attempt to band 5,000 Canada geese per year by the 2009 banding season.

The number of wood ducks banded in 2007 was above the USFWS goal for the first time. However, the only age-sex classes in which the goal was reached for wood ducks were juvenile males and females. Adult birds need to be targeted more effectively. Rocket-netting loafing areas should be seriously explored, as it may offer the best chance to capture large numbers of adult birds.

Table 1. Canada geese banded in Indiana during 2007.

Age	Unknown Sex	Male	Female	Total
Adult	0	1096	1018	2114
Juvenile	0	683	753	1436
Unknown	0	15	16	31
Total	0	1794	1787	3581

Table 2. Number of wood ducks banded at six Indiana Fish and Wildlife Areas and two reservoirs during 2007. The numbers in parentheses are the statewide quotas for that age and/or sex.

Age	Unknown Sex	Male	Female	Total
Adult	0	122 (218)	126 (312)	248
Juvenile	0	528 (314)	518 (441)	1046
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	0	650	644	1294

Table 3. Number of mourning doves banded by IDFW staff, 2007.

Age	Unknown Sex	Male	Female	Total
Adult	25	562	219	806
Juvenile	472	6	2	480
Unknown	7	4	1	12
Total	504	572	222	1298



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